

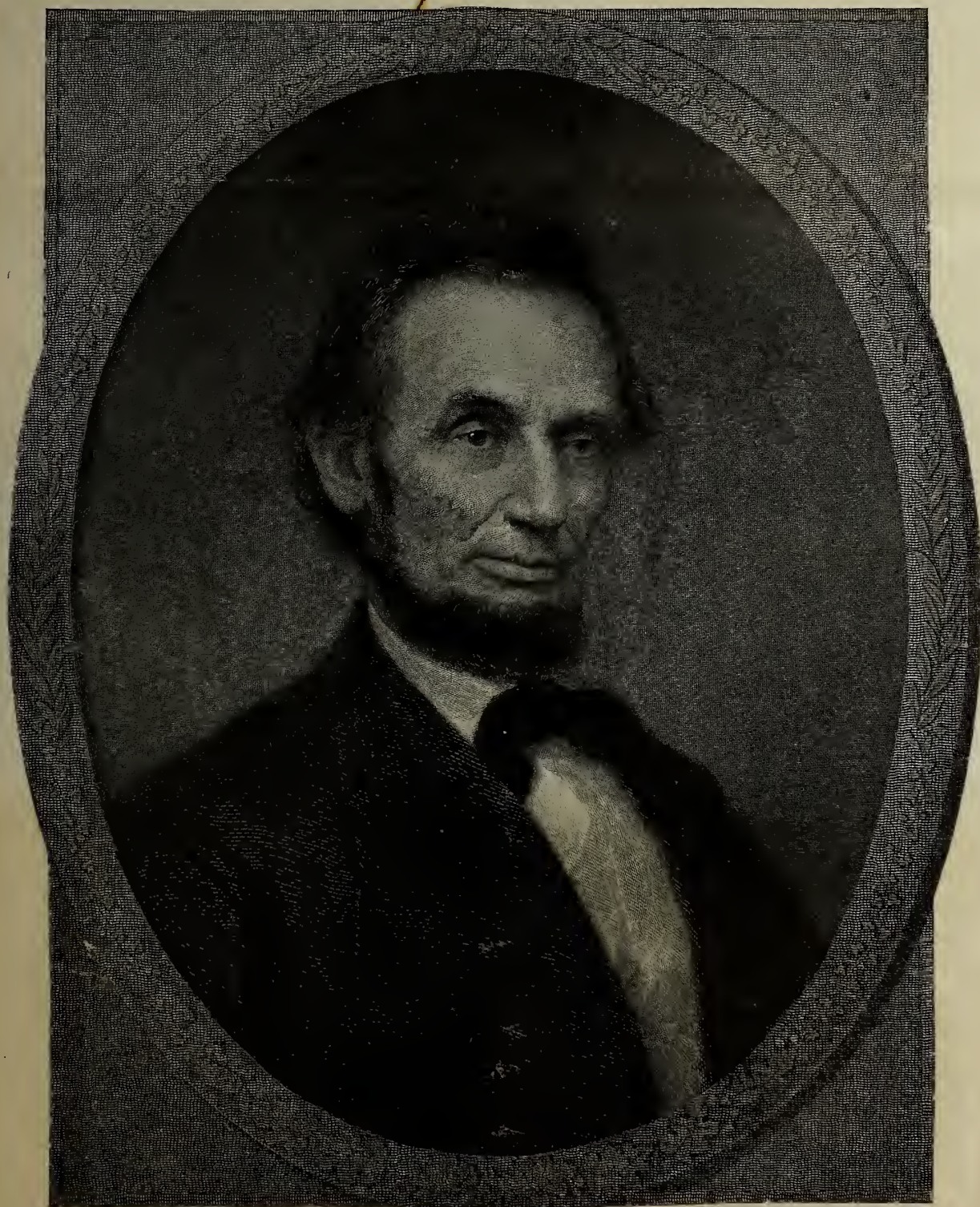
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ABRAHAM LINCOLN 1809-1909.

An English View of Lincoln.

J. St. Loe Strachey, Editor London Spectator.

I feel it a very great honor to be asked to express my veneration for Abraham Lincoln. There is no man in the whole record of the English race whom I regard with a deeper reverence. To my mind he has the right to be placed by the side of Cromwell as typical of all that is best and noblest. Some years ago I did my best to express what I thought of Lincoln and I feel that it would be a mistake to try to do this again. I have therefore selected from my previous writings about Lincoln such passages as seem to me to be appropriate to the present occasion. I trust that my readers will not think the passage at the end, which deals with Abraham Lincoln's prose style, out of place. In my opinion nothing better reveals a man than his style.

It is one of the greatest of Lincoln's claims to admiration, that though he sympathized with the fervor and enthusiasm of his countrymen, he was never carried away by it. He was one of those rare men who can at once be zealous and moderate, who are kindled by great ideas and who yet retain complete control of the critical faculty. And more than this, Lincoln was a man who could be reserved without the chill of reserve. Again, he could make allowance for demerits in a principle or a human instrument, without ever falling into the purblindness of cynicism. He often acted in his dealings with men much as a professed cynic might have acted; but his conduct was due, not to any disbelief in virtue, but to a wide tolerance and a clear knowledge of human nature. He saw things as a disillusioned man sees them, and yet in the bad sense he never suffered any disillusionment. For suffusing and combining his other qualities was a serenity of mind which affected the whole man. He viewed the world too much as a whole to be greatly troubled or perplexed over its accidents.

To this serenity of mind was due his almost total absence of indignation in the ordinary sense. Generals might half ruin the cause for the sake of some trumpety quarrel, or in order to gain some petty personal advantage; office seekers might worry at the very crisis of the nation's fate; but none of the pettinesses, the spites, or the follies could rouse in Lincoln the impatience or the indignation that would have been awakened in ordinary men. Pity, and nothing else, was the feeling such exhibitions occasioned him. Lincoln seems to have felt the excuse that tempers the guilt of every mortal transgression. His largeness and tenderness of nature made him at heart a universal apologist. He was, of course, too practical and too great a statesman to let this sensibility to the excuses that can be made for human conduct induce him to allow misdeeds to go unpunished or uncorrected. He acted as firmly and as severely as if he had experienced the most burning indignation; but the moment we come to Lincoln's real feelings we see that he is never incensed, and that, even in its most legitimate form, the desire for retribution is absent from his mind. *Tout comprendre, c'est tout pardonner*, was the secret of his attitude toward human affairs. In a word Mr. Lincoln possessed intellectual detachment in its highest and purest form. The test of intellectual detachment is the possession of the true sense of justice, and this he had if ever man had it. No more truly just man ever walked this earth. There is no hate in justice, though hate, I am willing to admit, is often more of a virtue than a vice. But Lincoln was not unmanly, as most men would have been, by his lack of hate. It is almost inconceivable, and yet true, that he carried on his death struggle with the South without ever feeling the passion of hate, and yet without ever faltering in his course. Many a general has neglected to hate his enemies, but that has usually been due to indifference to the cause of the

A WORD FROM PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

I feel that not merely all lovers of the Republican Party but all believers in the country should do everything in their power to keep alive the memory of Abraham Lincoln. The problems we have to solve as a nation now are not the same as those he had to face; but they can be solved aright only if we bring to the solution exactly his principles and his methods, his iron resolution, his keen good sense, his broad kindness, his practical ability, and his lofty idealism.

Faithfully yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Letter to the Republican Club,
New York, January 26, 1903.

Communion Sets



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war or to a cynical disbelief in such a thing as righteousness. Lincoln had a fervent belief in the justice of his actions, and yet could view the South without a trace of hatred. His attitude can be best illustrated by a reference to that sublimist of modern speeches—the second inaugural. I know not, if not there, where to find an example of the higher mental detachment.

So much for the intellectual side of Lincoln's nature. Behind it was a personality of singular charm. Tenderness and humor were its main characteristics. As he rode through a forest in spring time, he would keep on dismounting to put back the young birds that had fallen from their nests. There was not a situation in life which could not afford him the subject for a kindly smile. It needed a character so full of gentleness and good temper to sustain the intolerable weight of responsibility which the war threw upon the shoulders of the President. Most men would have been crushed by the burden. His serenity of temper saved Lincoln. Except when the miserable necessity of having to sign the order for a military execution took away his sleep, he carried on his work without any visible sign of overstrain. Not the least of Lincoln's achievements is to be found in the fact that though for four years he wielded a power and a personal authority greater than that exercised by any monarch on earth, he never gave satirist or caricaturist the slightest real ground for declaring that his sudden rise to world-wide fame had turned the head of the backwoodsman.

Under the circumstances, there would have been every excuse for Lincoln had he assumed to his subordinates somewhat of the bearing of the autocrat he was. It is a sign of the absolute sincerity and good sense of the President that he was under no sort of a temptation to do so. Lincoln was before all things a gentleman, and the good taste inseparable from that character made it impossible for him to be spoiled by power and position. This grace and strength of disposition is never better shown than in the letters to his generals, victorious or defeated. When they were beaten, he was anxious to share the blame; when victorious, he was instant to deny by anticipation any rumor that he had inspired the strategy of the campaign. If a general had to be reprimanded, he did it as only the most perfect of gentlemen could do it. He could convey the severest censure without inflicting any wound that would not heal, and this not by using roundabout expressions, but in the plainest language. "He writes to me like a father," were the heartfelt words of a commander who had

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An English View of Lincoln.

(Continued from page 2.)

been reproved by the President. Throughout these communications, the manner in which he not only conceals but altogether sinks all sense that the men to whom they were addressed were in effect his subordinates, is worthy of special note. "A breath could make them, as a breath had made," and yet Lincoln writes as if his generals were absolutely independent.

I have said something of Lincoln as a man and as the leader of a great cause. I desire now to dwell upon a point which is often neglected in considering the career of the hero of the Union, but which, from the point of view of letters, is of absorbing interest. No criticism of Mr. Lincoln can be in any sense adequate which does not deal with his astonishing power over words. It is not too much to say of him that he is among the greatest masters of prose ever produced by the English race. Self-educated, or rather not educated at all in the ordinary sense, as he was, he contrived to obtain an insight and power in the handling of the mechanism of letters such as has been given to few men in his, or indeed, in any age. That the gift of oratory should be a natural gift is understandable enough, for the methods of the orator, like those of the poet, are primarily sensuous, and may well be instinctive. Mr. Lincoln's achievement seems to show that no less is the writing of prose an endowment of nature. Mr. Lincoln did not get

his ability to handle prose through his gift of speech. That these are separate, though co-ordinate faculties, is a matter beyond dispute, for many of the great orators of the world have proved themselves exceedingly inefficient in the matter of deliberate composition. Mr. Lincoln enjoyed both gifts. His letters, dispatches, memoranda, and written addresses are even better than his speeches, and in speaking thus of Mr. Lincoln's prose, we are not thinking merely of certain pieces of inspired rhetoric.

I do not praise his prose because, like John Bright, he could exercise his power of coining illuminating phrases as effectively upon paper as on the platform. It is in his conduct of the pedestrian portions of composition that Mr. Lincoln's genius for prose style is exhibited. Mr. Bright's writing cannot claim to answer the description which Hazlitt has given of the successful prose writer's performance. Mr. Lincoln's can. What Hazlitt says is complete and perfect in definition. He tells us that the prose writer so uses his pen "that he loses no particle of the exact, characteristic, extreme impression of the thing he writes about"; and with equal significance he points out that "the prose writer is master of his materials," as "the poet is the slave of his style." If these words convey a true definition, then Mr. Lincoln is a master of prose. Whatever the subject he has in hand, whether it be bald or impassioned, businesslike or pathetic, it is felt that we "lose no particle of the exact, characteristic, extreme impression" of the thing written about. We have it all, and not merely a part. Every line shows that the writer is master of his materials; that he guides the words, never the words him. This is, indeed, the predominant note throughout all Mr. Lincoln's work. We feel that he is like the engineer who controls some mighty reservoir. As he desires, he opens the various sluice gates, but for no instant is the water not under his entire control. We are thus sensible in reading Mr. Lincoln's writings that an immense force is gathered up behind him, and that in each jet that flows every drop is meant. Some writers only leak; others half flow through determined channels, half leak away their words like a broken lock when it is emptying. The greatest, like Mr. Lincoln, send out none but clear-shaped streams.

The Size and Cost of Electric Signs.

Electric signs are one of the most important factors in outdoor advertising, but whether or not the larger the sign the greater the advertising value is a question now being seriously considered by advertisers and signmakers.

Undoubtedly the larger the display, as long as it is to be only one display anyway, the greater its value, but the same amount of money placed in a number of smaller displays is believed to be more valuable. The largest sign in the world is a roof sign in Jersey City. The letters are twenty feet high, the framework is 200 feet long by fifty feet in height, and the incandescent lamps used number 3,000. The cost of the sign was about \$12,000, to say nothing of its maintenance. The question is whether such a sign, situated in a most conspicuous place for outdoor advertising, is a better medium than twelve \$1,000 signs distributed throughout the city. Many think not. Popular Mechanics.

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"The Doctor, and I also," writes an Illinois woman, "consider that we owe the life of my little four year old niece to Grape-Nuts food."

"From the time of her birth her stomach was so weak she could not digest milk or any food we could think of, although we tried about all the Infant Foods known. The doctor gave me no hope—called the trouble intestinal consumption."

"At 18 months the child could barely sit alone, her body was so weak, and her brain did not seem to be properly developed."

"One day, having some trouble with my stomach, I brought home a package of Grape-Nuts and started to use it. The thought came to me that a very little of the food made soft in some cream might be good for the little one."

"I gave her some Grape-Nuts thus prepared and she soon became so foud of it that she would reach out her little thin hands and cry at the sight of a saucer with a spoon in it."

"She ate Grape-Nuts not only in the morning, but at night also and since the first has never missed a day. She is now, at four years, a strong, healthy child with a good straight back, fine bones, and firm muscles. Her mind is bright also."

"We stopped all medicine, so we know that it was Grape-Nuts and not medicines that saved her."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.



Rest Health Recreation

Aren't you about due for two weeks rest and freedom? Arrange today for a new lease of life secured in the most pleasant way at

French Lick West Baden Springs

Indoor and Outdoor Recreations Unsurpassed.

Low Round Trip Rates

Day and night trains, sleepers, parlor and buffet cars.

MONON ROUTE

Depot: Dearborn Station. Also—47th and 63rd Streets.

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CHICAGO



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Church Chime BELL FOUNDRY CO. Memorial Bells a Specialty. Peal McSHANE BELL FOUNDRY CO., BALTIMORE, MD., U.S.A.

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